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EX-HEADS OF WALSH MANNING SECURITIES SENTENCED TO 57 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON IN BOILER ROOM STOCK MANIPULATION CASE

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that FRANK SKELLY and CRAIG GROSS, the former principals of Walsh Manning Securities LLC ("Walsh Manning"), a now-defunct boiler room securities broker-dealer headquartered in Manhattan, were each sentenced last week in Manhattan federal court to 57 months in prison, following their October 2004 conviction after trial on multiple charges of securities fraud and conspiracy to commit securities and wire fraud.

The evidence at trial and in post-trial proceedings showed that the defendants orchestrated a scheme in which they and other brokerage firms, including the now-defunct Foster Jeffries Securities Corp. ("Foster Jeffries"), as well as an officer of the brokerage firm JB Sutton Group, LLC, ("JB

Sutton"), earned millions of dollars in illegal profits from the artificial manipulation of the market for the securities of at least four companies whose securities traded on the NASDAQ market.

From about November 1995 through the summer of 1998, SKELLY and GROSS conspired with the owners of Foster Jeffries, JB Sutton, and a market maker at another firm to artificially manipulate the market price and demand for securities issued by the following companies: Brake Headquarters, Inc. ("Brake Headquarters"), a distributor of automotive brake system products and other automobile component parts; American HealthChoice, Inc. ("American HealthChoice"), a primary care medical clinic management company; Multimedia Games, Inc. ("Multimedia Games"), an electronic gaming technology development company; and Jenna Lane Inc., a women's clothing manufacturer.

The evidence at trial showed that the defendants, through their brokerage firm, managed to obtain substantial control over the majority of the securities of these four companies, among others, by purchasing them at below market prices from private investors, and thereafter artificially inflated the prices of those securities through a series of directed and prearranged trades.

SKELLY and GROSS then caused Walsh Manning brokers

to employ various "boiler room" sales tactics to sell the manipulated securities to thousands of retail customers at artificially inflated prices, then refused to allow those customers to sell those securities unless they purchased other artificially inflated Walsh Manning securities.

According to information presented by the Government at the sentencing, the total amount of loss to client accounts from SKELLY's and GROSS's securities fraud scheme exceeded \$80 million.

Last week, United States District Judge RICHARD M. BERMAN sentenced SKELLY and GROSS each to 57 months in prison. Judge BERMAN has further ordered that he will determine the amount of restitution that SKELLY and GROSS owe to the victims of their offense in proceedings to be completed by August 24, 2005.

SKELLY, 39, originally from Long Island, New York, currently resides in Jupiter, Florida.

GROSS, 40, resides in Kings Park, New York.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Criminal Prosecution Assistance Group of the NASD for their assistance in the investigation and prosecution of this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys RAY LOHIER and JOSHUA KLEIN, and Special Assistant United States Attorney

RHONDA L. JUNG, are in charge of the prosecution.

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